

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 3, 2004, the Examiner rejected claim 13 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner noted that claim 13 recites "...the first subscriber in the network element..." The Examiner went on to say, however, that it is unclear how the first subscriber can be "in" the network element. Applicants respectfully submit that, pursuant to the present amendment, claim 13 has been amended so as to rectify this discrepancy.

Claims 1-19 remain in the present application. Independent claims 1 and 19, as well as dependent claim 13, have been amended herein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected, in particular, independent claims 1 and 19 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the Admitted Prior Art discussed in the present application. For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in sum, the Admitted Prior Art does not, in fact, teach or suggest:

first signaling information which, in the circuit-switching communication network, are configured according to a signaling standard of the circuit-switched communication network;

at least one part of the first signaling information is transmitted between the network element and the first subscriber such that the at least one part is configured according to the signaling standard of the circuit-switched communication network as well as in the packet-switched communication network.

Indeed, according to the claimed invention, the relevant part of the first signaling information is encoded according to the same rules in the circuit-switching communication network and in the packet-switching communication network. As such, such signaling information has an identical format in both of the claimed networks so that there is no necessity for a conversion of the data between the two different formats.

In contrast thereto, the Admitted Prior Art discussed in the present application merely discloses that first bits of signaling information are transmitted in the associated circuit-switching communication network, which are configured according to a signaling standard of the circuit-

switched communication network and that second bits of signaling information are transmitted in the packet-switching communication network, which are configured according to a signaling standard of the packet-switching communication network. An interface unit is thereafter necessarily arranged between the two networks for the *conversion* between the two different bits of signaling information.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 19 of the present application, as amended, as well as claims 2-18 which respectfully depend therefrom, are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is further submitted that no fees are due in connection with this response at this time. However, if any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0112740-211) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & ELOYD LLC

BY



William E. Vaughan

Reg. No. 39,056

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4292

Dated: March 3, 2005